GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4380
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify the fields that need to be revamped / strengthened pertaining to women and child security and their education, if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the schemes/programmes being implemented in this regard, if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken / being taken by the Government in the field of women and child development in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (c) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development has constituted a High Level Committee on the Status of Women to undertake comprehensive study to understand the status of women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's need.

To address issues relating to women and child, the Government has enacted a number of laws. These Legislations, Policy interventions, schemes and programmes being implemented in pursuance of these are reviewed and revamped / strengthened from time to time to safeguard the interests of women and child. A New National Policy for Children (NPC), 2013 adopted on 26th April, 2013, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005, Setting up of National Commission for Protection of the Child Rights (NCPCR) in March, 2007, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Launching of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in 2009 are some of the recent interventions for the safeguard of women and children in the country. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has also adopted a multi-pronged Approach to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Women and children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. This includes - Legislative Measures; Programmes and Schemes; Training and Capacity Building; and Awareness Generation and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups.

Ahimsa Messengers, a programme to combat violence against women was kicked off on 31st August, 2013. Apart from the ongoing women and child related schemes / programmes, the Ministry has also proposed to implement an Umbrella Scheme for Protection and Empowerment of Women during 12th Five Year Plan, with the following components:

(i) SAAHAS

(a) SWADHAR Greh, (b) Restorative Justice for Rape Victims, (c) Assistance to States for implementation of PWDV Act, 2005, (d) Women's Help Line and (e) One Stop Crisis Centre

(ii) Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

(iii) National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW)

(iv) Assistance for Construction of integrated Shelter / home for vulnerable and marginalized women including single and destitute women.

The details of the above said interventions adopted and the schemes being implemented in this regard are given in the Annual Reports of the Ministry which are available in the Library of Lok Sabha Secretariat and also in the Ministry's website www.wcd@nic.in

Review Meetings with Women and Child Development Departments of State Governments / UT Administrations are held at National Level to discuss the issues for effective implementation of the programmes and schemes of the Ministry, including issues relating to women and child security and education. The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) has been organizing workshops for NGOs on issues relating to trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation.

Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme aims at holistic

development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers, by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services through Anganwadi Centres at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz., immunization, health check-up and referral services, are related to health and are provided by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) & Public Health Infrastructure.

In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government has approved Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme in September 2012. Restructured and Strengthened ICDS has been rolled out during the year 2012-13 to 2014-15 in a phased manner.

National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy, 2013 has been recently approved by Government and notified on 12.10.2013. It covers all children from prenatal period to 6 years of age. One of the important objectives of the policy is to universalize and reinforce ECCE and to ensure adaptive strategies for inclusion with special attention to vulnerable children. The Policy lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for survival, growth and development of child with focus on care and early learning for every child. It recognizes the synergistic and interdependent relationship between the health, nutrition, psycho-social and emotional needs of the child which is yet to be implemented.

The 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)−'Sabla', a Centrally- sponsored scheme introduced in the year 2010-11 on a pilot basis, is being implemented in 205 districts from all the States/UTs. Sabla aims at all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years by making them 'self-reliant'. The scheme has two major components: Nutrition and Non Nutrition Component. While the nutrition component aims at improving the health & nutrition status of the adolescent girls the non-nutrition component addresses the developmental needs. To enhance the coverage and improve the functioning of the Sabla scheme, the performance of the scheme across the country is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) scheme has been introduced in October, 2010 on pilot basis and is now operational in 53 selected districts across the country. The scheme envisages providing cash directly to the beneficiaries through their Bank Accounts/Post Office Accounts.